(a) whether the Department for pervention of Food Adulteration in Delhi is active in regular checking;

(b) whether Government are aware that more than 50 per cent of food and foodstuffs in Delhi are either adulterated or unhygienic; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take against this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the reports received from the Government of NCT of Delhi, the percentage of adulteration in food products during the years 1993 to 1997 has ranged between 9 to almost 21.

(c) Steps being taken by Government to curb adulteration and lack of hygiene include:

(i) continued sampling and quality control;

(ii) improving the monitoring mechanism by strengthening the capacity of the enforcement machinery. A proposal for Capacity Building of the Food sector with World Bank assistance is under formulation.

(iii) initiating legal action under PFA Act when instances of violation come to notice.

(iv) educating the consumers and the traders regarding the ill effects of adulteration, lack of hygiene etc. & measures/ facilities available to counter it.

बालक और बालिकाओं के जन्म और मृत्यु दर में असमानताएं

700. **श्रीमती सरोज दुबे:** क्या स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में बालक और बालिकाओं के जन्म और मृत्यु दर में काफी असमानताएं पाई गई हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) नवम्बर, 1998 तक देश में बालक और बालिकाओं की अलग-अलग संख्या कितनी है; और

(घ) बालिकाओं की मृत्यु दर में हो रही बढ़ोतरी को रोकने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं?

स्वास्थ्य और परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय के राज्यमंत्री (श्री दलित एजिलमलाई): (क) और (ख) भारत के महापंजीयक कार्यालय द्वारा जन्म दर के लिंग-वार अनुमानों का संकलन नहीं किया जाता। भारत के महापंजीयक के नमूना पंजीकरण पद्धति 1995 से उपलब्ध शिशु (0-14 वर्ष) मृत्यु दर बालकों के लिए 8.6 और बालिकाओं के लिए 9.5 है। अभी भी अनेक परिवारों में लड़कियों के प्रति पोषण, भोजन खिलाने और स्वास्थ्य परिचर्या के संबंध में भेदभाव किया जा रहा है और यह व्यवहार लड़कियों (0-14 वर्ष) की उच्चतर मृत्यु दर के लिए काफी हद तक जिम्मेवार माना जाता है।

(ग) जनसंख्या अनुमान (प्रोजेक्शन) संबंधी तकनीकी ग्रुप द्वारा 1 मार्च, 1998 की स्थिति के अनुसार बच्चों (0-14 वर्ष) की अनुमानित (प्रोजेक्टिड) जनसंख्या इस प्रकार है:-

पुरुष:	182,564 (हजार में)
महिलाएं:	171,033 (हजार में)

(घ) बच्चों को लिंग का भेदभाव किए बिना स्वास्थ्य और रोग प्रतिरक्षक उपाय प्रदान किए जा रहे हैं।

Financial Assistance for Hospital Projects

701. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance provided by Government for hospital projects in the country during each of the last two years, State-wise;

(b) the terms and conditions of such allocation;

(c) whether the Central Government have received any request from the Government of Gujarat for financial assistance for such projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) 'Health' is a State subject under the Constitution. It is the responsibility of the

respective State Government to provide financial assistance for hospital projects keeping in view their priorities and availability of resources. However, for upgrading secondary health care system, the following five States have been provided with World Bank Assistance under the State Health Systems Projects:

	(Rupees in crores)
Andhra Pradesh	600
Karnataka	546
West Bengal	698
Punjab	425
Orissa	415

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Fresh Initiatives to Check wide spread Adulteration

702. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether adulteration in edible oils and other consumer items is rampant all over the country as ravealed by the recent tragedy in Delhi due to consumption of adulterated mustard oil;

(d) if so, the details of fresh initiatives taken/proposed by Government to effectively curb the menace of adulteration;

(c) the legal steps proposed for awarding deterrent punishment for adulteration;

(d) the details of cases of adulteration registered during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise, and minimum and maximum punishments awarded; and

(e) the details of steps proposed to ensure quality of products by the Central/State certifying agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) No Sir. According to the available information from State/UT Governments, the overall extent of adulteration in various food stuffs including edible oils have been found to range between 8 to 11 percent during the last five years i.e. 1993 to 1997. The recent tragedy in Delhi due to consumption of adulterated mustard oils is an exceptional case.

(b) The measures proposed to contain the menace of adulteration include:—

(i) Continued sampling and quality control.

(ii) Initiating legal action under the provisionsl of the PFA Act, 1954 when instances of violation come to notice.

(iii) Educating Consumers and the traders regarding the evil of adulteration, lack of hygiene etc. and measures/ facilities available to control it.

Improving the monitoring mechanism by strengthening the Capacity of the enforcement machinery. A proposal for building enhanced in the food sector with World Bank assistance is under preparation.

(c) to (d) The Provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and the rules made there under are amended from time to time to make them more effective. In cases of proven adulteration, the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 provides for a minimum punishment of six months imprisonment and fine of Rs. 1000/- and a maximum punishment of life imprisonment with fine, depending upon the gravity of the offence.

A Statement indicating State-wise number of food samples examined, found adulterated/ misbranded, percentage of adulteration and prosecutions launched under the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 during the last three years i.e. 1995, 1996 and 1997 is at Annex-A. [*See Appendix 185, Annexure No.* 1]

(e) In so far as edible oils are concerned, government has issued a Notification on 17.9.1998, the Edible Oils Packaging (Regulation) Order, 1998, the salient features of which provide for (1) edible oils to be sold only in packed form from 15-12-1998(2) packers to register themselves with a Registering authority for which they would need to have their own analytical facilities or adequate arrangement for testing the sample of edible oils, to the satisfaction of government and (3) all relevant particulars to be given on the containers for the information of the consumer.